

Ladies and Gentlemen, we all know the important roll that a leader plays in efforts such as this of SAHETI. SAHETI is a very large organisation with a lot of problems and difficulties, but with an able leader and team it is possible to overcome these hurdles although in this case, ever so much more difficult because all the work done is voluntary.

We have been blessed to have had a leader who has been able to guide a team, maintain the respect of the team, the support of all fellow Greeks and friends co-ordinate and correlate our efforts so that we can celebrate a day such as today and without any doubt whatsoever face the successful running of this school. Our chairman Mr. George Bizos, is no stranger to the Greek environment and to friends of the South African Greeks. He is the person who has worked hard to guide and to bring to fruition this day. It is a great moment for all of us, but undoubtedly a greater moment for our chairman Mr. George Bizos.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wonder whether it is written in History's Annals, that a man has moved from the much respected profession of a school teacher, to the ultimate position of leadership namely, a Minister of that profession the Minister of Education. Our friend The Honourable Minister Senator van der Spuy, I think is also achieving a further milestone. He will be laying the Foundation Stone of the first private school in South Africa which will be teaching Modern Greek as a compulsory language. Mr. Minister this is a great day for us, firstly we have managed to get our project off the ground floor and secondly we are honoured with you undertaking to lay this beautiful and memorable Stone on our behalf.

Dames en Here, dit is nou my voorreg om Sy Edele Minister J.P. van der Spuy te vra om die gehoor toe te spreek asook die Gedenksteenlegging waar te neem. Minister van der Spuy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now call upon our Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Economidis to address us. This will be followed by the signing of the Scroll which is to be embedded by His Excellency in the Foundation Stone.

This Document has been written in the Greek language only, as we feel quite confident that the Greek language which has survived for thousands of years till date, will survive even more and will be able to be read and understood when uncovered one day at almost the Southern Tip of Africa.

I shall be giving a translation of the script in English, in order to allow all to know what is being signed and embedded.

And now Ladies and Gentlemen, for the signing of the Scroll, I call upon the Hon. Minister to come and sign followed by His Excellency the Ambassador,

The chairman of SANETI Mr. George Bizos, the Mayor of Bedfordview, The chairman of the Hellenic Community of Johannesburg Mr. Lagoudis, our Hon. Vice-President, our first Hon. Vice-President and a great benefactor to SANETI Mr. Harry Constantinides and the next to sign will be all the Officers of SANETI.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the formalities now over we would like to ask Mrs. van der Spuy to please come up and receive a gift from our debutant of the year.

I now ask Mrs. Economides to come up and to be presented by the runner-up with a gift.

Ladies and Gentlemen the formalities now over, we ask you to sit back for the next 10 - 15 minutes to enjoy an exhibition of Greek Folk Dances as presented by Madame Mary Tsopse.